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15 November 1995

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Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 96 (a)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Philippines*: draft resolution

Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of such a special session, 2/

1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 at the highest possible level of participation;

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ A/50/453.

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2. Encourages participants at the high-level meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held during its fourth session, in 1996, to address, inter alia, matters related to the special session of the General Assembly decided on above;

3. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to convene its Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group meeting, in February 1997, as an open-ended meeting, so as to assist the Commission on Sustainable Development in undertaking the review for the special session;

4. Welcomes the decision of the Commission to devote its fifth session, in 1997, to preparations for the special session, and decides that that session of the Commission will be open-ended, with all States participating on an equal footing;

5. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Council emphasized the need for the Programme, in accordance with its mandate in the implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in which the Council decided to hold its nineteenth session early in 1997 with a view to making a contribution to the special session;

6. Invites Governments as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

7. Also invites all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the specialized agencies and other multilateral organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the special session, and requests the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, in close coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development, to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to the preparation of the special session;

8. Further invites the conferences of parties or other regulatory bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as well as the regulatory bodies of other relevant instruments, as appropriate, and the Global Environment Facility, to provide their inputs to the special session;

9. Recognizes the important role played by the non-governmental organizations at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, in accordance with the practice of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

10. Decides to establish a voluntary fund to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process, and invites Governments to contribute to the fund;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 3/ and related conference outcomes, as well as recommendations for future actions and priorities, including those concerning institutional matters, in particular the role of the Commission, and requests that the report include:

(a) Concise reports containing an assessment of the progress achieved in specific sectoral and cross-sectoral areas;

(b) Country profiles providing a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level, compiled on the basis of national information received and in close cooperation with the Governments concerned;

12. Decides to include a sub-item entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a progress report on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ..., resolution 1, annex I.

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Agenda item 97 (b)

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Philippines* and Colombia**: draft resolution

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorses the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/ and 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Reaffirming also its resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 of 30 July 1992 in which the Council called upon all parties in the development effort to make concerted, planned and vigorous endeavours to benefit from utilization of the capacities of developing countries by giving their full support and first consideration to the use of the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking note of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, 2/ held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,

Bearing in mind the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, 3/ adopted at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 29 September 1995, which emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation, particularly the convening of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation no later than 1997,

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development as well as an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance,

Reaffirming also that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but is complementary to North-South cooperation,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries reported by both developing countries and the United Nations development system,

Recognizing the need for the international community to support the developing countries in exploiting all opportunities for expanding South-South cooperation,

Welcoming the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 4/ prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, whose recommendations were endorsed by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, at its ninth session, 5/ and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council,

Noting with satisfaction the launching of the South Centre as an intergovernmental organization, and its important contribution to the promotion and strengthening of South-South cooperation,

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2/ To be issued.

3/ A/50/518, annex.

4/ TCDC/9/3.

5/ See document A/50/39, annex I, decision 9/2.

Recognizing that recent advances in communications technology have created new opportunities for South-South cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on South-South Cooperation, 6/ convened by the Secretary-General in New York from 31 July to 4 August 1995, and of the reports of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session 7/ at which substantive issues were presented and practical modalities for strengthening South-South economic and technical cooperation at the global level were recommended,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation 8/ and its supplement entitled State of South-South Cooperation: Statistical Pocket Book and Index of Cooperation Organizations, 9/ which provide a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of South-South cooperation worldwide and of United Nations system support for such cooperation,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation 8/ and its supplement entitled State of South-South Cooperation: Statistical Pocket Book and Index of Cooperation Organizations; 9/

2. Endorses the recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries 4/ which among other things call for the adoption of a more strategic orientation for technical cooperation among developing countries focusing on priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, and macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, the transfer of technology and rural development, which are likely to have a major development impact on a large number of developing countries;

3. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries during the next programming cycle;

4. Calls upon all Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify new funding modalities such as triangular funding arrangements and private sector funding;

6/ A/AC.246/3.

7/ See document A/50/39.

8/ A/50/340 and Add.1.

9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.18.

5. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to establish a trust fund for the promotion of South-South cooperation and invites all countries, in particular the developed countries, to contribute to the fund;

6. Calls upon the developing countries and their institutions to increase joint efforts in technology cooperation, broader technological development such as encompasses scientific and technological management capabilities and information networks that are demand-oriented and involve participation by users of technology or by those involved in the process of technological development, infrastructure and human resources development;

7. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its ninth session, to be held in South Africa, to consider strengthening economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as a strategy for promoting growth and development and for ensuring the effective integration of the developing countries into the world economy, and to formulate concrete policy recommendations in this regard;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly, on a biennial basis, a report entitled "State of South-South cooperation" containing a comprehensive overview and analysis of South-South economic and technical cooperation worldwide and international support in this regard, including quantitative data and indicators on all aspects of South-South cooperation as well as recommendations for strengthening such cooperation, keeping in view the importance of the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation no later than 1997;

9. Calls upon all other organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, to provide analytical and empirical material for the preparation of the above-mentioned report;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".

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Agenda item 95 (d)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Philippines*: draft resolution

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, endorsed in General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 and subsequently reaffirmed in Assembly resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 2/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/ the Cartagena Commitment, 4/ adopted

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

2/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

4/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

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the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, the recommendations and decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly those contained in Agenda 21, 5/ General Assembly resolutions 46/165 of 19 December 1991 and 48/179 of 21 December 1993, and other resolutions and decisions adopted by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerning science and technology for development,

Bearing in mind the vital contribution of science and technology, including new and emerging technologies, to the promotion of economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, and stressing the importance of monitoring new developments in science and technology and their implications for society, on production, employment and international competitiveness, especially for developing countries,

Recognizing the importance for developing countries of having access to science and technology so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in the world market, and stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries,

Stressing the need to further promote endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries so as to enable them to participate in, benefit from and contribute to the rapid advances in science and technology,

Recognizing that information technologies are important requisites for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology, and recognizing also their far-reaching implications for society,

Reaffirming that the United Nations should play a central role in the promotion of cooperation in science and technology, and in the enhancement of support and assistance to developing countries in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in this regard,

Commending the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in promoting the developing countries' endogenous capacity in science and technology, and recognizing its unique role as a global forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for the improvement of the understanding of science and technology policies for development and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

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5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Stressing the need to further strengthen, within the context of the forthcoming ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the role of the Conference in science and technology,

Expressing concern over the continued inadequacy of resources devoted to fostering science and technology for development,

Recognizing the need for Governments, and regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure women better access to and participation in scientific and technological areas, especially those areas where they are not represented or are underrepresented,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 6/

1. Endorses the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its second session; 7/

2. Reaffirms that capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries should remain a priority issue in the United Nations agenda, and urges that international cooperation efforts be intensified and strengthened towards developing countries' endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, including their capacity to utilize scientific and technological developments from abroad as well as to modify and adapt them to suit local conditions;

3. Calls upon the international community, particularly developed countries and international organizations, to fulfil all their commitments as affirmed in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, 5/ in particular on the effective access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including new and emerging technologies and publicly owned technologies, to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries, so as to enable those developing countries to meet their development-related challenges;

4. Stresses the urgent need to strengthen the vital role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly through effective policy guidance and better coordination, including in international cooperation in technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting;

5. Calls upon United Nations organizations, funds and programmes to work in a coordinated manner to develop a catalogue of proved technologies to enable

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6/ A/50/649.

7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 11 (E/1995/31).

effective technology choice, by developing countries, of state-of-the-art technologies;

6. Calls upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue to interact effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates;

7. Takes note of the developments at the Consultative Meeting on a Coalition of Resources for Science and Technology for Development and welcomes the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should provide a forum for exchanging views and interaction among partners of different networks and coordination schemes;

8. Reaffirms the need for adequate financial resources on a continuous and assured basis to foster science and technology for development, in particular to promote endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in accordance with their priorities;

9. Notes with appreciation the measures taken by the Secretary-General in response to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 48/179 and invites him to continue to take all necessary measures, including to explore the possibility of organizing a more effective coalition of resources within the United Nations development system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the activities planned for 1996-1997 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with specific mandates provided for in the relevant Assembly resolutions;

10. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their complementarities, and the need of further advancing such cooperation through the establishment and/or the strengthening of national technology and information centres in developing countries and their networking on regional, subregional and interregional and global levels to promote technology research, development and dissemination among developing countries, and urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing for such efforts;

11. Welcomes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the decision of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to select information technologies as the main substantive theme of its work during the inter-sessional period 1995-1997 and to set up panels and/or working groups to analyse, and elaborate and make recommendations on issues pertaining to information technologies and their implications for development;

12. Takes note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider ways and means for the formulation of a common vision regarding the future

contribution of science and technology for development, taking advantage of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna in 1979;

13. Stresses the important role that the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should play in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, and calls on all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.